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United States Attorney District of New Hampshire

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MANCHESTER MAN PLEADS TO CREDIT CARD AND IDENTIFY FRAUD

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono announced that Charles Kalantzis, age 45, of Manchester, New Hampshire, pled guilty to a five-count indictment returned by a Grand Jury sitting in the District of New Hampshire. Counts one through three of the United States' indictment charged Kalantzis with the unauthorized use of access devices (credit cards), and counts four and five of the indictment charged Kalantzis with the fraudulent use of identification documents.

The guilty pleas were the result of a one year investigation conducted by the United States Postal Inspection Service in conjunction with the Manchester, New Hampshire Police Department. At the time of defendant's plea hearing, the United States presented information which established that Kalantzis, who owned and operated Tan Lines, a tanning salon located at 245 Maple Street, Manchester, New Hampshire, offered to establish turn-key tanning businesses to interested individuals and investors. The information also established that numerous individuals, who were patrons of Tan Lines and who were interested in establishing their own tanning salon, sought the assistance of Kalantzis. During the period of time in which Kalantzis was assisting individuals in the establishment of their salon, they provided him with identification information. The information was then utilized in order to obtain credit cards which Kalantzis then used without the authorization of the card holder. The investigation established, for example, that Kalantzis used an American Express card, which was obtained in order to purchase goods for an individual's tanning salon, at Lakes Region Greyhound in Belmont, New Hampshire. During a one month period of time (November, 2000), Kalantzis charged approximately \$20,000.00 on the American Express card at Lakes Region Greyhound in Belmont.

The United States also presented facts at defendant's plea hearing which showed that Kalantzis also utilized a relative's identification documents in order to purchase goods whose value exceeded \$1,000.00. The information established that on December 24, 2001, Kalantzis, through the use of a relative's identification documents, obtained a \$6,500 loan from

Wells Fargo Financial in order to purchase a diamond engagement ring at Nasar Jewelers in Manchester, New Hampshire. On November 7, 2002, Kalantzis obtained a \$5,000 loan, through the use of a relative's identification documents, from Citifinancial, Manchester, New Hampshire.

Kalantzis is scheduled to be sentenced on July 22, 2003. The use of unauthorized access devices carries a term of imprisonment of up to ten (10) years and a fine of \$250,000. The fraudulent use of another's identification documentation carries a term of imprisonment of up to fifteen (15) years and a fine of \$250,000.00. The prosecution was the result of a joint investigation between the United States Postal Inspection Service, the Elder Services Unit of the Manchester, NH Police Department and the United States Attorney's Office. This case is being handled by Assistant U. S. Attorney Terry Ollila.